Site Assessment & Non NPL Federal Facilities Branch FY–2017 Accomplishments Report

The Numbers

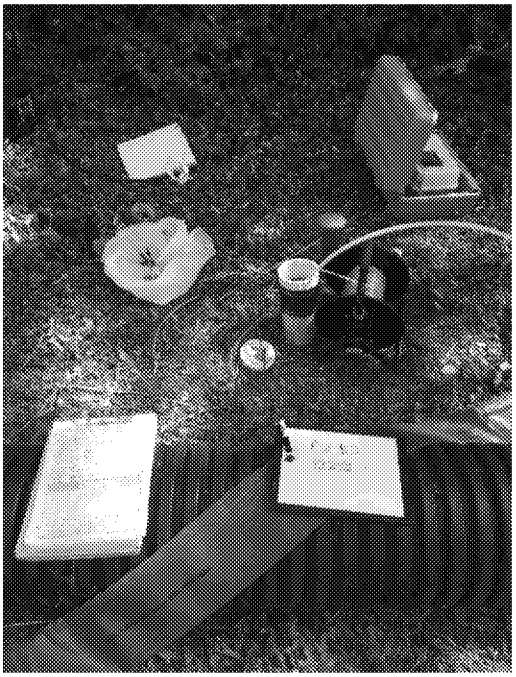
Activity	Accomplishments	Notes
Site Decisions completed	**98**	
• GPRA Measure: Site Assessments (45)	51	***Exceeded annual target (45) by 6 sites***
• Sites > 5 years	4	
• Sites > 16 years	5	
• New sites discovered	3	
• PAs completed	13 7 PAs completed by states 6 PAs completed by EPA	
• SIs completed	10 8 SIs completed by EPA 2 SIs completed by other Federal agencies	
• Reassessments or expanded SIs	13	
• HRS packages started or completed	2	Newark South GW Plume Hockessin Groundwater
• Sites assigned NFRAP	20	
• Sites referred for state cleanup/OCA	7	
• Sites archived	25	
Active Sites in SEMS site assessment pipeline	357	•
Sites referred to Removal	3	• Anderson Cleaners/Hagerstown Day Nursery • Hatboro Tank Farm • Kanawha River Site
Removal Only sites reviewed for PA/SI action		
Sites referred to RCRA	0	
Sites Proposed to the NPL	1	Newark South GW Plume
FY17 Pre-Remedial Funds Allocated to START	$400,000	• $200k to Tech Law • $200k to Weston
Workshare meetings held with State Partners	20	
Sites added to the Federal Docket	1	• Smithsonian Paul Garber Facility
National Workgroups participation	6	

The Stories

Field Events

Norwood Landfill: On April 12 2017, EPA, Weston Solutions, and a few representatives from The Borough of Norwood were onsite to perform a Preliminary Assessment of the old Norwood Landfill. The citizens of Norwood requested an environmental investigation in hopes of promoting a healthier future. The community members created the following website "www.norwoodlandfill.com" to create awareness for the alarming high rate of both cancer and autoimmune disease in the area. The belief is that these diseases could be associated with the old Norwood Landfill - an area of potentially contaminated soil brought in when the houses were built. A Site Inspection including sampling is planned for September 2017.

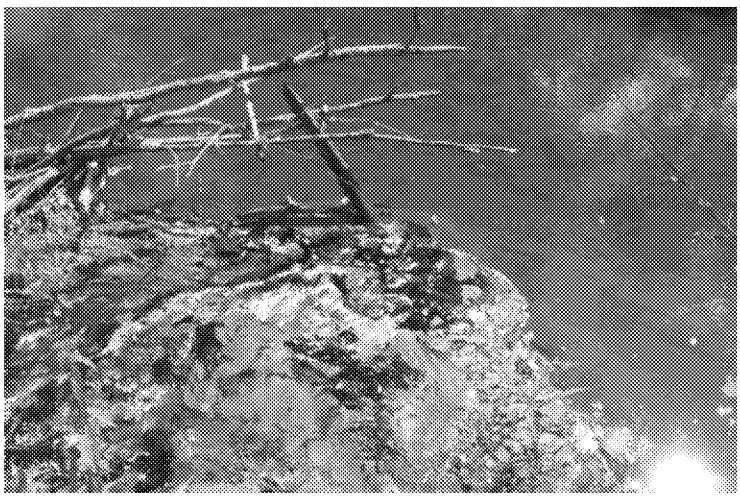
Delaware Groundwater Sites: DNREC asked for assistance and consideration of listing two major groundwater sites: Newark South Groundwater site and the Hockessin Groundwater site. To prepare HRS packages for both these sites, additional confirmatory sampling was necessary. Site Assessment partnered with Removal to conduct both soil gas and groundwater sampling for PCE in Hockessin. In Newark, Site Assessment conducted additional municipal well sampling to validate results for HRS scoring. Both these sites are planned for proposed NPL listing in FY2018.



Newark South (DE) groundwater sampling

Hockessin groundwater vapor intrusion investigation

Kinzua Creek Watershed Tar Sites: The Site Assessment and Removal programs are working together to perform a combined Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection (PA/SI) for the Kinzua Creek Watershed Tar Sites in McKean County, Pennsylvania. The site consists of the entirety of the 26-mile Kinzua Creek as well as five distinct areas along the creek where former wood chemical factories left wood tar contamination. As part of the PA/SI, surface water, sediments, and wood tar contamination in the Kinzua Creek Watershed were sampled. Several site visits as well as a stakeholder meeting were conducted prior to sampling activities in order to gather information. Stakeholders include the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP), the Pennsylvania Game Commission, the McKean County Conservation District, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Ruffed Grouse Society. If necessary, an ecological assessment will be conducted by the Biological Technical Assistance Group (BTAG). A final site decision will be made based on sampling results and other applicable information.

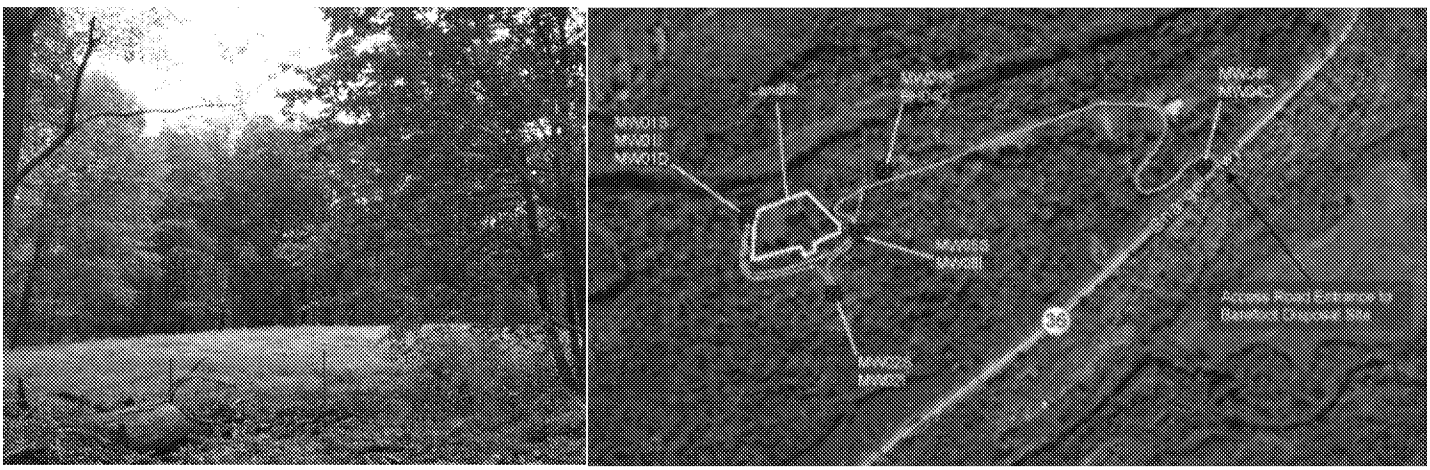


Altoona Westerly Sewage Treatment Plant: In June 2017, Site Assessment conducted sampling in pursuit of a Site Inspection (SI) for the Altoona Westerly Sewage Treatment Plant. The SI is being conducted to determine whether polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contamination found throughout 40 acres of filter beds poses a threat to the nearby Beaverdam Branch of the Juniata River. For this reason, soils and sediments were sampled in June 2017. Due to the large size of the filter beds, Site Assessment utilized the multi-increment sampling methodology, which is useful for sampling large areas and is a new technique for Region III Site Assessment. Sampling results will be used to make a final decision about the site.

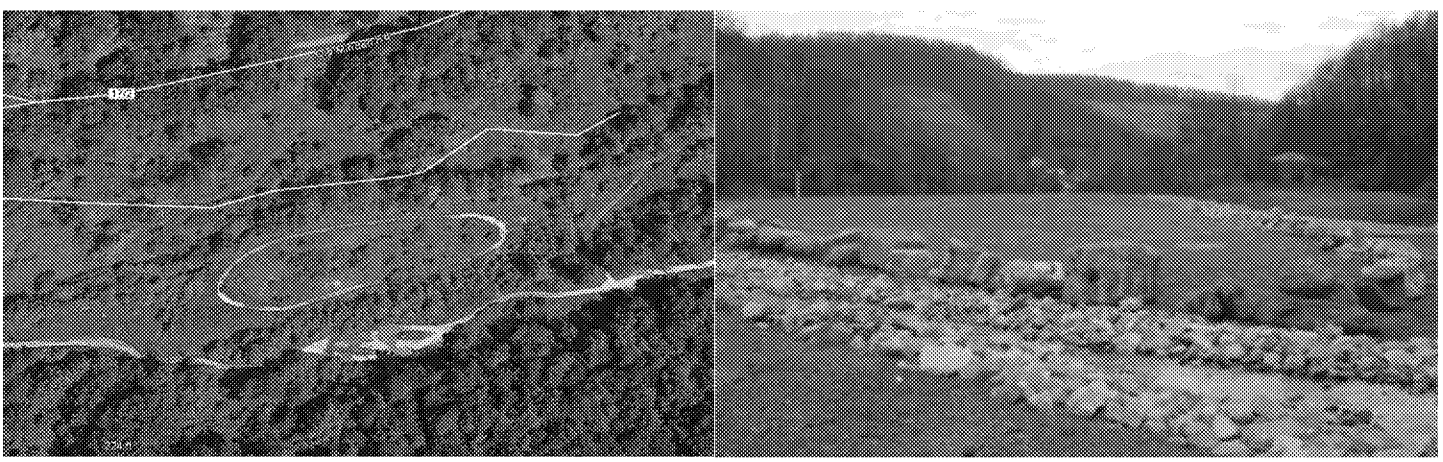
Altoona Westerly STP filter bed fields

Beaverdam Branch

Barefoot Disposal: A Site Reassessment (SRA) is being conducted at this former landfill in order to determine the origin and extent of volatile organic compound (VOC) contamination found downgradient of the site. In pursuit of the SRA, monitoring wells were installed in September 2016 and sampled in November 2016. Results show contaminants in some of the installed wells that can be traced to contaminants in downgradient potable wells. The potable wells currently have treatment systems in place. Due to the karst terrain, additional wells are necessary to further define the extent of the plume, and the initial discussions on the placement of those wells began in FY17.



Shaffer Equip Co/Concho Landfill: Site Assessment worked with Removal, Community Involvement, and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) in pursuit of Removal Assessments at the Shaffer Equip Co site and the nearby Concho Landfill site. In March 2017, representatives from Site Assessment, Removal, and Community Involvement conducted a public meeting to address the concerns of an active community group composed of local residents. Site Assessment collaborated to develop a sampling plan which ensured that the data collected could be used to determine eligibility for the National Priorities List (NPL), if necessary. In June 2017, samples were collected from groundwater and soil as well as sediments and surface water from the Arbuckle Creek. These samples were collected to assess potential threats resulting from contamination at the Shaffer Equip Co site, most notably polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Sampling results will be reviewed by both Removal and Site Assessment to determine if the sites are eligible for Removal actions and/or listing on the NPL.

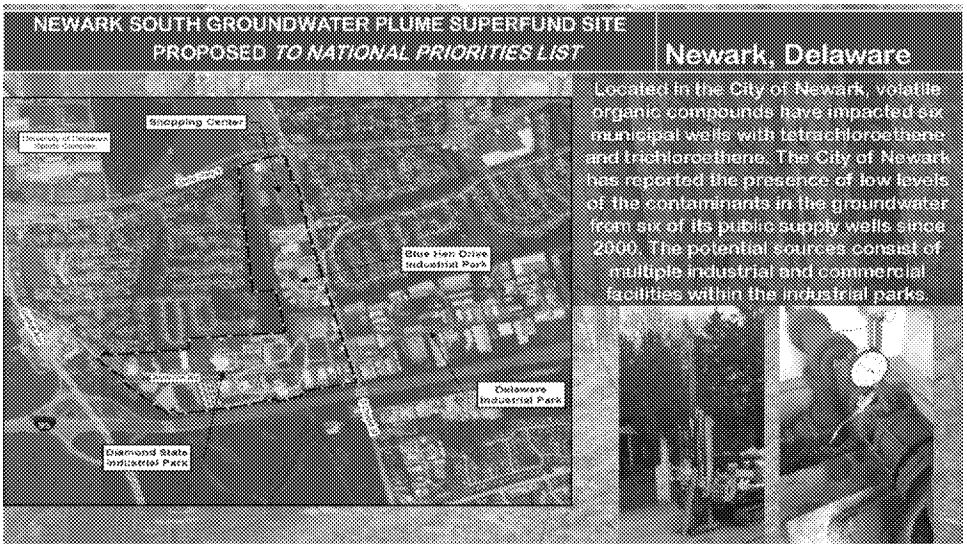


Saltville Graveyard Dump and Saltville Power Plant: On February 27, 2017, Start contractor, Tech Law Inc. conducted sampling events at two former Olin Mathieson operations; Saltville Power Plant and Saltville Graveyard Dumps. The two sites are located adjacent to each other near the North Fork of the Holston River in Saltville, Virginia. The Saltville Power Plant and the Saltville Graveyard Dump are two sites that were historically part of Olin Mathieson's soda ash operations which operated from 1895 to 1972.

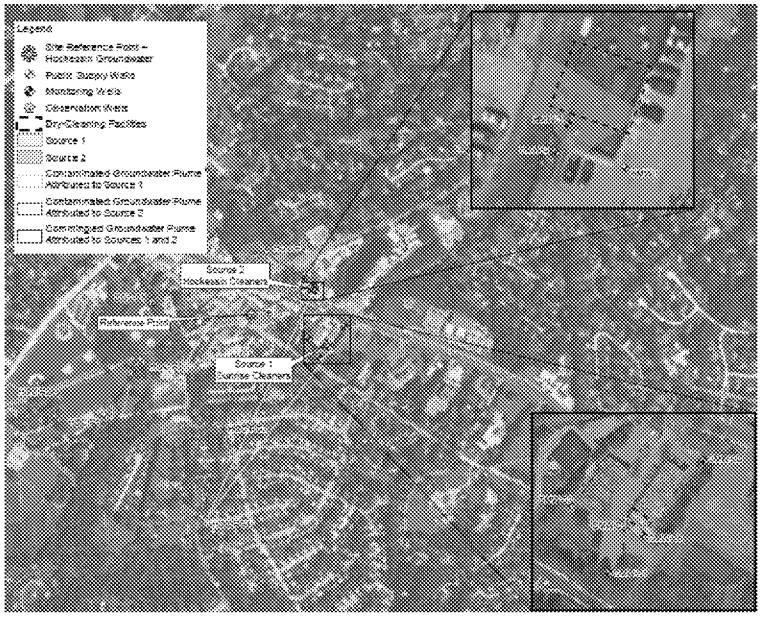
The power plant used coal and then fuel oil to generate power for various Olin Mathieson facilities. The Saltville Graveyard Dump was used to storage and/or disposal area. Site Assessment has reviewed the validated data for the Saltville Graveyard Dump. Based on documented releases of PAHs, PCBs, and mercury the site is expected to score under the HRS model and may be a prospective candidate for the NPL. The Final Site Inspection reports for both sites are anticipated to be completed in the first quarter of FY 2018.

NPL Listing

- *Newark South Groundwater Plume Site* in Newark, DE was proposed to the NPL in August 2017 and the listing is expected to be finalized in November 2017. Environmental sampling of groundwater and soils has identified organic contamination, including PCE/TCE in six public drinking water wells that make up the City of Newark's South Wellfield which both EPA and DNREC concur is a threat to drinking water supplies. The source(s) of the contamination are not identified. The drinking water is being treated by the city water authority and meets all state and federal drinking water standards. Region 3 resampled all the wells, met with the City and State to discuss the proposed listing, and Site Assessment used social media to inform the public about the NPL listing. EPA held a public meeting to explain details of the site and the NPL listing on Tuesday, August 15, 2017.



- *Hockessin Groundwater Plume Site* in Hockessin, DE is anticipated to be proposed to the NPL in November 2017. High levels of PCE contamination in the groundwater is impacting the three municipal drinking water wells which are operated by the Artesian Water Company. The drinking water supply is being treated and currently meets Delaware water quality standards. The contamination is likely related to several dry cleaning operations located in the area. Site Assessment and Removal Programs conducted groundwater and VI sampling in FY16. EPA held a public meeting to explain details of the site investigation on June 19, 2017.

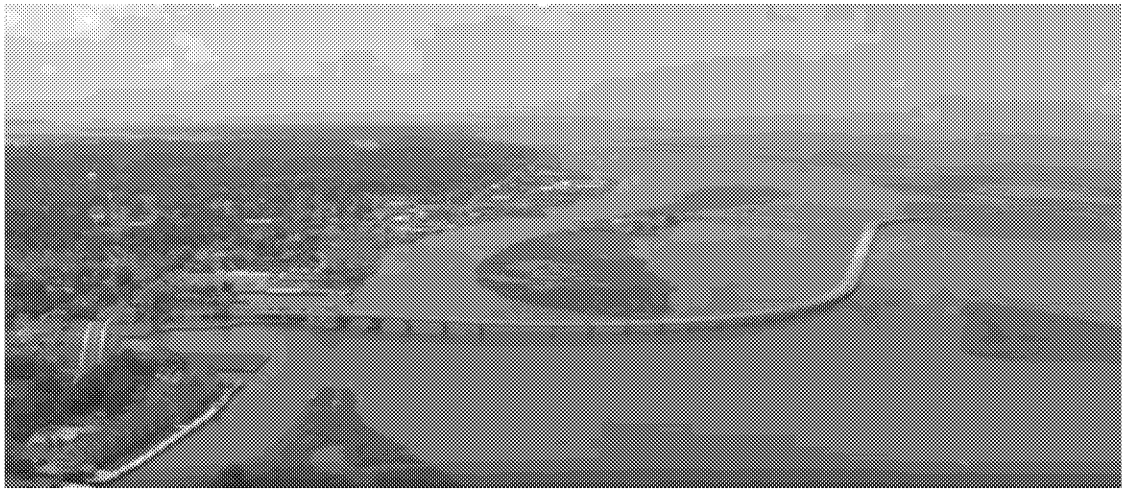


Assistance Provided to other sites

NASA Wallops Site

NASA Wallops Flight Facility (WFF) is a non-NPL Federal Facility site near Wallops Island, Virginia. Although the site is not on the NPL, EPA has been heavily involved in oversight of activities by NASA and USACE (Formerly Used Defense Sites were overseen by USACE) at this facility. The main issue at this site during FY17 was the discovery of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) at a former firefighting training area onsite. This discovery led to the sampling of the onsite NASA and Town of Chincoteague (TOC) municipal wells. Although the finished TOC drinking water was below health advisories for PFAS, the TOC shallow wells did have PFAS contamination above health advisories and were immediately taken offline. NASA began supplementing TOC drinking water with their own wells.

Due to the much larger amount of water being pumped from the NASA wells, one of their deep wells began showing some very low levels of PFAS and was taken offline. Drinking water wells offsite in a campground and a local farm were also sampled and found to be free of PFAS. NASA held a public meeting in June to discuss the issue and have been keeping the TOC and public up to date with their findings. EPA, VADEQ and NASA have been implementing a plan for installation of perimeter monitoring wells and for a more thorough investigation of potential onsite sources. NASA has also been sampling all drinking water wells on the facility on a bi-weekly basis. The TOC is considering drilling a new wellfield south of the NASA facility to supplement their municipal water supply.



The Town of Chincoteague (left) receives water from the NASA facility (right) through a 5 mile pipeline

Tobyhanna Army Depot

Tobyhanna Army Depot is a site that was listed on the NPL in 1990. It was considered construction complete and was partially deleted from the NPL in 2001. There are three remaining OUs that are subject to a five year review: OU-1 a burning and waste storage area; OU-4, a UXO area, and OU-5, a former landfill. The fourth five year review was completed in FY17. All three OUs were found to be protective of human health and the environment.

Bishop Tube

The office of Pennsylvania State Senator Daylin Leach, Delaware Riverkeeper Network and the Philadelphia Inquirer have inquired about Region 3's involvement in the Bishop Tube Site and why it was not listed to the NPL. The Bishop Tube Site met the criteria for placement on the NPL in 1996, but the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania did not support the listing at that time and Region 3 recognized PADEP as the lead regulatory agency for the site. A prominent local developer plans to build new townhouses on this property, which has the community concerned regarding the contamination at the site. The Bishop Tube site was used for manufacturing stainless steel tubes from the 1950's until 1999 and TCE is present in all media at the site. The SAM prepared responses to the Philadelphia Inquirer's questions about the site, which were incorporated in an article that was published on April 10, 2017 and prepared responses to questions from the Delaware Riverkeeper Network and Office of State Senator Leach's about the site. A meeting was held with the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, PADEP and EPA on May 18, 2017 to discuss concerns about the site, the roles of PADEP & EPA at the site and plans moving forward.

Completion of the Lead Smelter Strategy Report

The Lead Smelter Strategy was created in 2012 for assessing lead smelter sites that had been the subject of a study conducted by William P. Eckel in 2001 (Eckel's List). The strategy was to ensure completion of Superfund site assessment work at a set of 464 historic lead smelters identified in Eckel List. EPA Headquarters distributed lists of the sites to regional offices and EPA regions conducted assessments at these sites. All milestones for completing, tracking and reporting required assessments were met and included in a Summary Report. The Lead Smelter Strategy Summary report was prepared by all EPA regions and is expected to be public by the end of Fiscal Year 2017.

HRS Rulemaking

Addition of Subsurface Intrusion to the HRS

Cumulating a 6 year long rulemaking process, the Region 3 Site Assessment staff helped to finalize the addition of a Subsurface Intrusion (SsI) component to the Hazard Ranking System (HRS). This component will allow sites that have vapor intrusion issues be placed on the NPL. The rule became final on January 9, 2017 and became effective on May 22, 2017. In FY17, regional staff continued to serve on the national workgroup which developed the rule to prepare training materials and fact sheets to help EPA, States, and contractors prepare to score these types of site for the NPL.

◆ *Potential Vapor Intrusion Threats due to perchlorotheylene (PCE)* use at former and active clothing dry cleaners have been a primary focus throughout the state of Maryland for the last five years. In the last two fiscal years, ten sites were assessed by preliminary assessment or site inspection and data from four of those sites demonstrated a potential vapor intrusion threat to workers, child day care occupants, or residents. Those sites were ultimately referred to the Removal Response Program to further quantify and mitigate the imminent health risks. Continuation of this focus is important for the Site Assessment Branch with the recent addition of the Sub-Surface Intrusion Component to the Soil Exposure Pathway of the HRS, which now allows Site Assessment to quantitatively determine the site's potential for inclusion on the NPL.

Lead Smelters

◆ *Lead Smelter Strategy Summary Report* was a national report created in 2012 to ensure completion of Superfund site assessment work at a set of 464 historic lead smelters that were identified in a study conducted by a private citizen in 2001 that was made available to EPA Headquarters. The list of sites was distributed to the EPA Regional Offices to complete assessments at these sites. All milestones required for completing, tracking, and reporting the completed assessments were met on time, the results of which are included the Summary Report. All EPA regions contributed to the Lead Smelter Strategy Summary report and it is expected to be made available to the public by the end of Fiscal Year 2017.